

COMMUNITY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Setting the Scene: Your Island Community

You live in a small, isolated community on Elliot Island in northern Maine. There are only 90 members in your close-knit community. Due to the difficulty reaching the mainland, many members of the community have not been exposed to the cultures of mainland Maine. The primary sources of income are from timber harvesting and fishing. However, a large reserve of precious metals has recently been discovered on the Island. This discovery has led to a recent increase in immigrants arriving from foreign countries with the promise of jobs and money.

Disease: The Sickness Begins

In the past six months, a disease of unknown origin has begun to spread through the community. The symptoms begin with mild fever and body ache, but progress to high fever (102° -104° F), vomiting, and severe rash. Although the disease appears to be non-fatal, it keeps the afflicted individual bedridden for up to 3 months. Unfortunately, those individuals who contract this disease are no longer active in the community and their contributions are temporarily lost.

Resistance: Immigrant Immunity

It has become apparent that, although original members of the Island community are contracting the disease, none of the immigrant families are affected. The immigrants credit their doctors and spiritual beliefs for sparing them from the disease. While close to 70% of your friends, family, and fellow community members have contracted the disease, not a single immigrant has been infected.